

the cause, in part at least, of their joyless condition.

Think, on the other hand, of all the good that comes from a day begun and ended in loving service, a day in which we are anxious to meet everybody and to leave with them a ray of sunlight to gladden their hearts. Those that feel neglected and alone are encouraged and find new joy and new hope. Those in sin find a loving helper to keep them from the tempter. The sad are cheered and we ourselves have the reflex influence of joy resulting from the spreading of joy in the lives of others. It will be a happy day when all Christians learn that one of their first duties is to prove their love for their brethren by heartily greeting them wherever they may be.

MARCUS A. WITTER.

#### Invite Others to Her Services

Christ said that the sons of Mammon were wiser in their generation than the sons of light. To the careful observer this seems often to be true.

Members of worldly organizations and alliances are busy at all times trying to induce men to come to their gatherings that they may interest them and secure their allegiance.

Why should the Christian be less zealous in seeking to further the cause of Christ and his kingdom? Why not seek by inviting men to attend the church services to interest them in the welfare of their souls and win them for Christ?

People often have a mistaken idea of the church and think that it is a place for Christians only and that there is nothing there to interest them and that perhaps they are not wanted. Now if these same people could only be made to feel that the church services are for them as well as for Christians they would come and be won for Christ.

We often have mistaken ideas about the propriety of inviting people to attend divine worship. We should never be ashamed to ask any one, at any time and in any place to attend the services of our church. I believe that if we are ashamed to speak of God and his house, and the services of his house that he will be ashamed of us. Indeed he says so in his Word.

Men are longing to know more of the church and of God and it needs but an invitation from us to induce them to come and learn of Christ and his love.

Christ commands us to make disciples of all nations. How shall all people be brought to Christ's services and learn of him except we invite and urge them to come. Let us awake to the realization of the responsibility that rests upon us and let us discharge our duty more faithfully in the future than in the past.

DYOLL BELOTE.

To have a portion in the world is a mercy; to have the world for a portion is misery.

#### PULPIT ECHOES

##### The Mission of the Church

The general church is the conservator of God's plan of redemption. To the apostles the Holy Spirit gave the power to conserve and perpetuate his teaching. It is also the instrument of God conveying the message of redemption to all people. To do this successfully there must be a general support of (1) distinctively Christian literature; (2) distinctively Christian educational institutions; (3) distinctively Christian missionary enterprises.

The individual church is so related to the general that the success of the general is determined by the work and loyalty of the individual.

Its relation to society should be that of a light giver. Society needs the light of God to lay bare the spots of corruption; to permit the scalpel to find its way to the festering sores of iniquity.

The great mission of the church is that of a soul-saving institution. Its work is not that of a social club, nor of an entertainment society, nor of a concert company, nor of a lecture bureau. Neither is the church so much a *place* to work in as a *force* to work with. Its efforts should be directed toward bringing lost souls to Christ. Moody said, "Too many preachers waste half their energy in trying to keep their members converted." Too many churches endeavor to add members to their roll rather than to make *converts*. There is too much zeal for church and not enough for Christ; too much proselytizing and not enough Christianizing. Christ said he was sent to the *lost* sheep of the house of Israel, not to those already within the fold. It is the mission of the church to seek the lost.

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##### Christian Transformation—Rom. 12: 1, 2

The impelling power of the great apostles beseeching is the wisdom, knowledge, and mercy of God. Our best assurance in trusting God is because of what he is. Because he gave his son for us we can rely upon his mercy when giving ourselves to him. The giving, or better the yielding of ourselves to him is like the offering of a sacrifice "well pleasing" when given in his appointed way. The apostle is very careful to show a distinction between the Levitical (offering) and the Christian offering. The former was dead, the latter is to be a living sacrifice. That is it must be alive to God. Ready to be active in the exercise of our own faculties for growth. Ready to show energy and effort in the direction of Christian service among man.

Dead sacrifices are too much in evidence. People give themselves to God for salvation but beyond that many are dead. The most earnest appeals from God's servants entreating them to abandon sinful habits and evil

associations are unheard. The most eloquent pleas for missions and missionary enterprises never move them. Such dead sacrifices are not pleasing to God.

Paul sits before us in contrast two conditions. The one resulting in man ruined and debased by sin. The other resulting in purity, nobility and exaltation of man as exemplified by Christ Jesus. Oh, Christian, God has destroyed the imperfections and ungodliness which sin hath wrought in your life. He has broken the old vessel marred by sin. He has made you a new lamp; placed you once more upon his wheel that he may make you again, now stay under his hand. Don't be fashioned after the old course of sin, but be transfigured into the likeness of Jesus. Begin to think God's thoughts. Live to God's purpose. Do God's work. Submit to the work of God and the Holy Spirit will transform the likeness of Satan out of your mind, heart and face into the loving image of God's dear son for when he appears we shall be like him.

L. W. DITCH.

#### THE FORWARD MOVEMENT

W. D. FURRY.

God is today calling the church to go forward. This is a time of special crisis. Events hasten. Dreams are crystallizing. The under-currents are coming to the surface. God's foot-steps are on the sea; his voice is in the storm. The goal of history arises into view. Never was there such a call for forward movement as today. Everything is ready for the immediate evangelization of the world. The religions of the old world are fast losing their ancient hold upon the people and there is in consequence a general breaking away from them. From the sin of superstition these people will fall into the deeper sin of atheism. Mr. Mott says that in his recent trip to China and Japan he found no man who would call himself a Buddhist. The world is open to an immediate evangelization as never before. Before the church of today is the opportunity of the ages. But opportunity means obligations and responsibility. It is the church's duty, it ought to be her privilege to enter upon this work, and the only work entrusted to her at once.

Moreover the church of today has the means to accomplish this work in this generation. During the past quarter century, wealth has been increased beyond the fondest dreams of avarice. Fully three fifths of this wealth is in the possession of the members of the Christian church. The church was never better prepared financially to enter the work of the world's evangelization than now. The Earl of Shaftsbury says very trenchantly that during the latter part of these eighteen centuries it has been within the power of those who had the truth—having means enough, knowledge enough, and opportunities enough to have evangelized the world twenty times over.